



*Ejagham Tradition*



# QUARTERLY REPORT

**EJAGHAM TRADITION CENTER**

**Q1: October - December, 2020**

*Authorised by: President, EJT*

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## ORGANISATIONAL DIRECTION

### OUR MISSION

*“To Host, Promote, Harness and Update Ejagham Traditional Practices (ETP) and Ejagham Cultural Expressions (ECE) in order to Safeguard and Preserve Ejagham Tradition as a true Legacy of Ejagham People.”*

### OUR VISION

*To be a one-stop-shop for information and data about, relating to and concerning Ejagham Traditional Practices (ETP) and Ejagham Cultural Expressions (ECE)*

### OUR OBJECTIVES

- *Safeguard and preserve the cultural heritage of Ejagham people.*
- *Protect the secret and sacred cultural heritage of Ejagham people.*
- *Encourage Research and Development (R&D) on Ejagham tradition.*
- *Ensure that the none-secret and non-sacred knowledge of Ejagham Traditional Practices (ETP) and Ejagham Cultural Expressions (ECE) are globally available and easily accessible.*
- *Explore the Socio-economic potential of Ejagham tradition for the empowerment of Ejagham People and Local Communities (EPLC).*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Aboninyen*, we are certainly making some progress in the pursuit of our mission, vision and objectives. Indeed, we do have specific yardsticks for measuring this progress. However, let me draw your attention to the real measure which you should reflect on. What is the potential of our members, and indeed Ejagham people, that could be applied to achieve our Mission, Vision and Objectives? My bet is, a lot. Given that potential, what have we achieved so far? Potential versus Achievements is the real measure. Given our potential, our achievements to date leaves much to be desired.

This Q2 report for 2020 fiscal year happens to coincide with end of year 2020 therefore the report would elaborate on Q2 activities as well as general highlights of year 2020. I would like to thank all members and in particular those who have applied their individual potential to keeping the wheel turning and for your continued support.

It was not contemplated that achieving our mission would be easy. In spite of the anticipated challenges, you and I have a reason to be happy today. Our efforts to safeguard and preserve our heritage has gained traction. Ekubi EjT, Uyep lteam, Inside Ejagham, Ejagham Language Codification, EjT Cultural Festivals, Ejagham Journal and Book are some of the milestone programs that EjT started in 2020. These programs and much more to come are the reasons that you should be happy and proud of your organisation and indeed be motivated to do more. ***“What is the potential of our members, and indeed Ejagham people, that could be applied to achieve our Mission, Vision and Objectives? My bet is, a lot. Given that***



**Engr. Chris Anom** CEng, CMarEng, FIMarEST, FRINA

***potential, what have we achieved so far? Potential versus Achievements is the real measure.***”I have received sufficient good compliments from all quarters about the performance of EjT. However, in my opening, I stated a simple and clear performance measuring formula. For us to be able to give ourselves a thump-up, Potential must equal Achievements. *Atem Abon Ejagham*, we are still miles away from balancing this equation. Balancing this equation and therefore making meaningful progress would require all Ejagham to actively work together and jettison silo relationship.

One of our members affirmed the need for us to work together when she posted on our Telegram platform that: “Chinua Achebe's classics state that when a man calls his kinsmen for a feast it is

***“ What is the potential of our members, and indeed Ejagham people, that could be applied to achieve our Mission, Vision and Objectives? My bet is, a lot. Given that potential, what have we achieved so far? Potential versus Achievements is the real measure.”***

not to redeem them from starvation, as they all have food in their homes. When they gather under the moonlight in the village grounds, it is not because of the moon, as every man can see it in his compound. They gather because it is good for kinsmen to do so.”

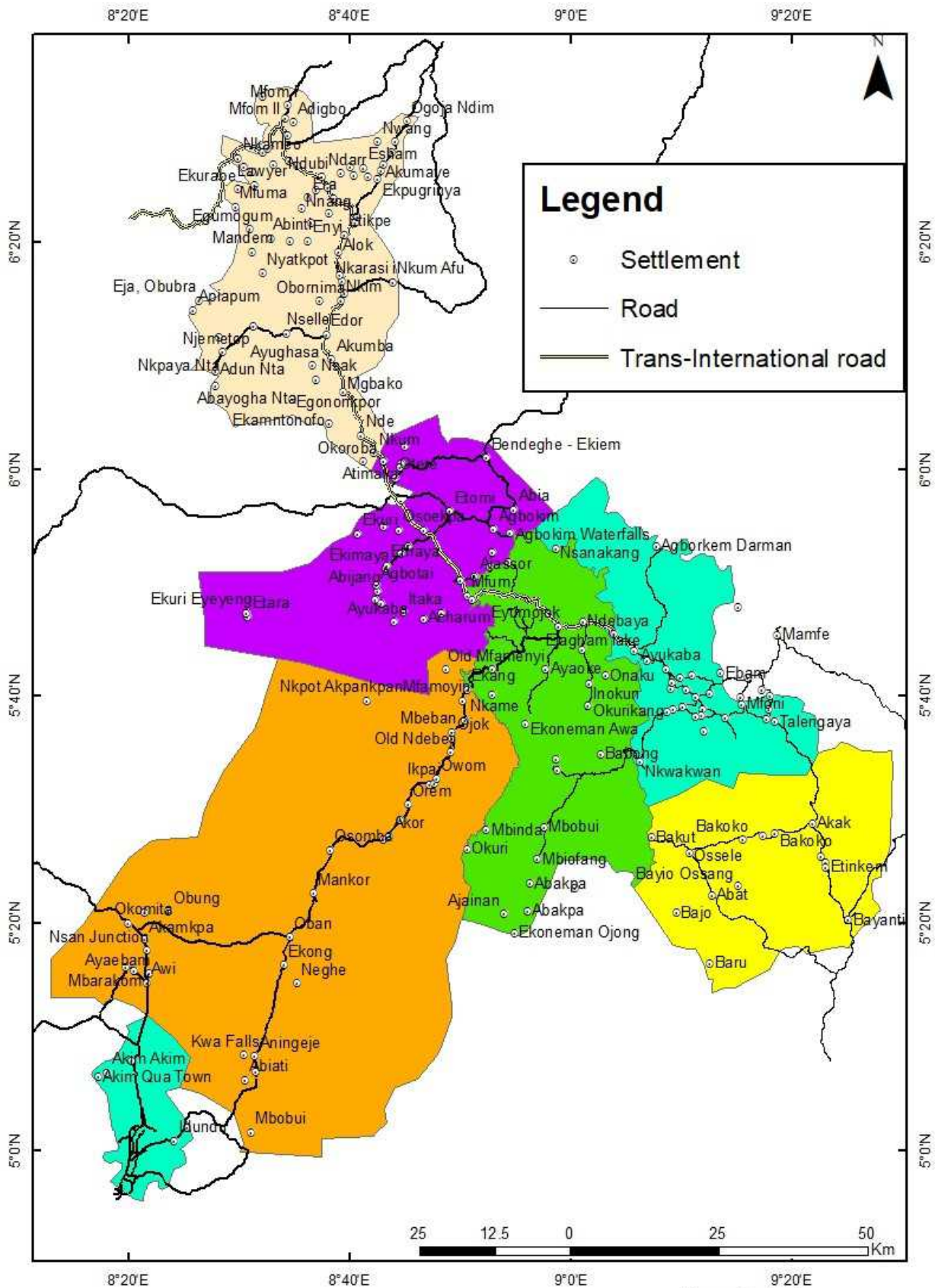
As 2020 draws to a close and we usher in the new year, I would like implore all EjT members and well-meaning Ejagham sons and daughters and friends to gather here because it is good for kinsmen to do so. When we gather we are stronger and when we are stronger, we can achieve more and balance the performance evaluation equation. I am convinced that we are capable of much more and are stronger together than we would ever be divided.

Once again, my profound gratitude goes to everyone for your resilience in 2020. Aware that this is a journey who's end we will not see, as future generations will continue where we stopped, I appeal to all to renew our commitment to support EjT and ensure we transmit a healthy heritage to future Ejagham generations.

Ekup na nkad,

*Enom C. M.*  
Engr. Chris Anom  
President, EjT

# EJAGHAM NATION COMPOSITION



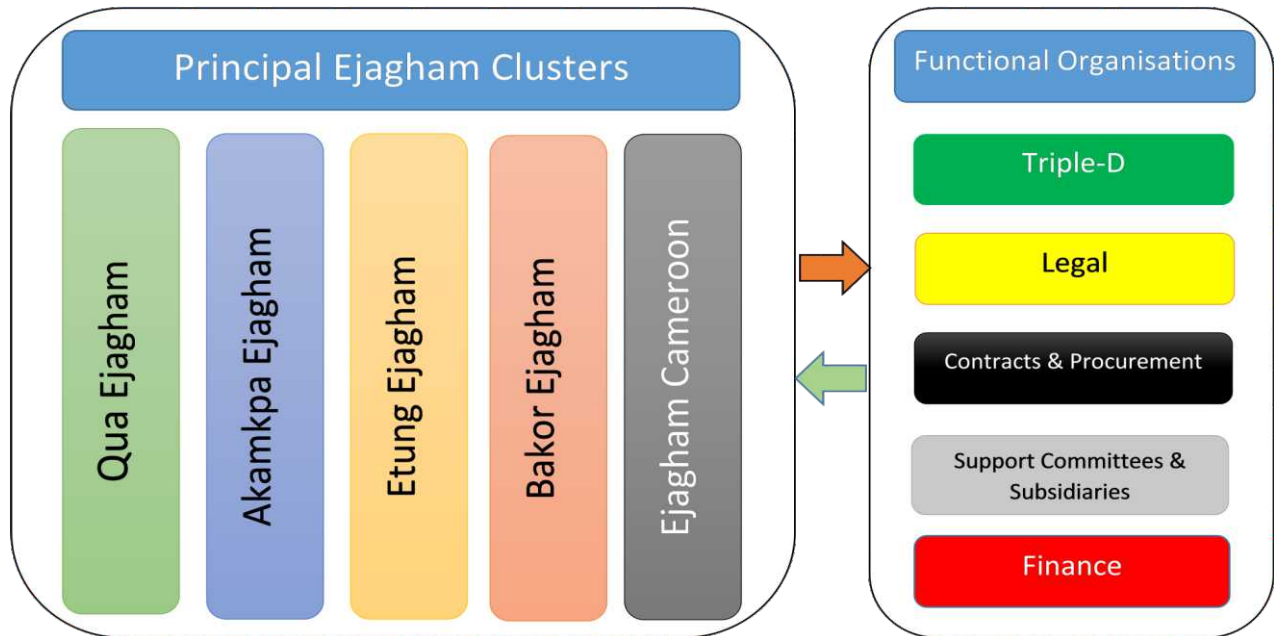
Map Projection:  
GCS WGS 1984

Map production by:  
Nkor, Bridget  
Forest Monitoring, GIS and Mapping Unit  
CRS Forestry Commission, Calabar. 2020

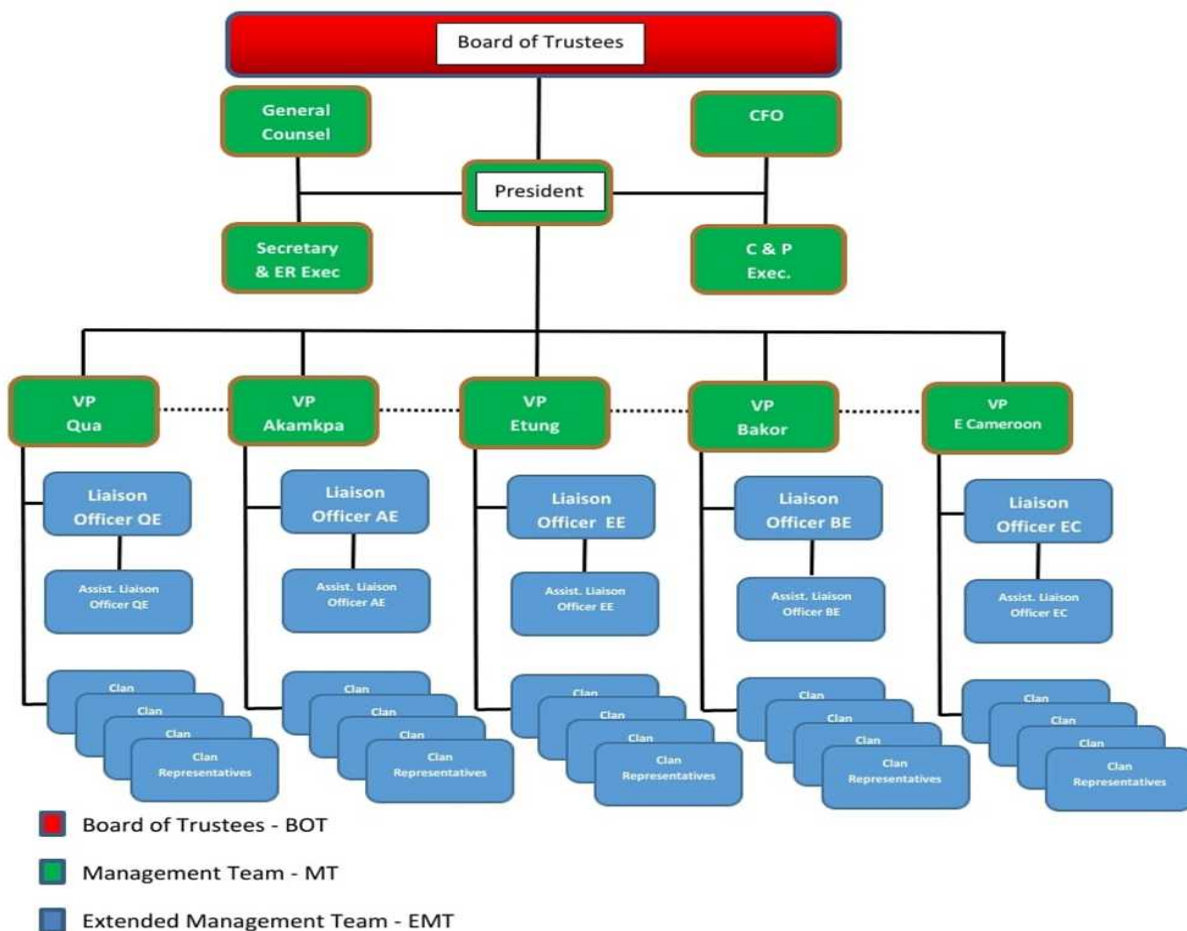
Above Ejagham Nation map shows some Ejagham towns and villages. The map does not show all Ejagham settlements and is not an indication, does not suggest or imply any political interpretation.

# EjT ORGANISATIONAL MODEL

## Board of Trustees (BOT)



## EjT ORGANISATIONAL CHART



# THE SECRETARIAT



**ENGR. CHRIS ANOM**  
CEng CMarEng FIMarEST FRINA  
*PRESIDENT*



**SESSEKOU (IYAMBA) HON  
AGBORNDUKU ERET**  
*VICE PRESIDENT*  
EJAGHAM CAMEROON



**DR. NSAGHA OSAJI**  
*VICE PRESIDENT*  
QUA EJAGHAM



**DR. VALENTINE NTUI**  
*VICE PRESIDENT*  
AKAMKPA EJAGHAM



**MR VICTOR O. ETTA**  
*VICE PRESIDENT*  
ETUNG EJAGHAM



**MR IBU MONKOM**  
*VICE PRESIDENT*  
BAKOR EJAGHAM



**MRS GRACE A. NTUI**  
*CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER*



**MR. D.C EKUP-NSE**  
*SECRETARY &  
EXTERNAL RELATIONS EXECUTIVE*



**MR. BEN NTUI**  
*CONTRACT & PROCUREMENT  
EXECUTIVE*



**BARR. FRANCIS ANOM**  
*LEGAL COUNSEL*



**VERY REV. FR.  
DR. FELIX EJA OJONG**  
*CHAIRPERSON, ECFC,  
ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON ELCC,  
COORDINATOR EJAGHAM JOURNAL  
& BOOK (EJB)*



**PROF. MRS ALICE E. ASIM**  
*ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON,  
EjT CULTURAL FESTIVALS  
COMMITTEE (ECFC)*



**PROF. STELLA ANSA**  
*CHAIRPERSON,  
EJAGHAM LANGUAGE  
CODIFICATION COMMITTEE  
(ELCC)*

## Q2 2020 ACTIVITIES

This report is a summary of EjT's activities and projects within the second quarter of EjT's 1<sup>st</sup> Fiscal year which started in July 2020. The report is designed to inform all EjT Members of the organisation's performance within this specific timeframe. This Quarterly Report is a product of EjT's Monthly Reports designed as the corporate assessment document through which the progress of EjT's Corporate Business Plan for 2020 – 2023 is appraised by the Leadership Team (LT), Extended Management Team (EMT), and the Board.

For the records, EjT Leadership Team was constituted and held its inaugural meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This pioneer Leadership Team was saddled with the responsibility of building this organisation, in line with the provisions of EjT's Corporate Management System (CMS). Before the development and adoption of EjT Corporate Business Plan (CBP) 2020–2023 by the LT, with implementation from July 2020, EjT had taken remarkable steps towards achieving its Mission, Vision, Goals, and Objectives, as captured in EjT's Organisational Profile 2020 and 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Report.

For a comprehensive understanding of this current report (QR2), readers are advised to read through the QR1 for insights into the origin and progress of all our projects, except for a few activities recently initiated. Interested persons can reach us through our contact details above to receive the Q1 report.

### **Introduction of Ejagham Language Codification Project to Etung and Bakor Ejagham Traditional Rulers Councils**

Following their Project Execution Plan, delegates from Ejagham Language Codification Committee (ELCC), Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Ojong and Nta D. C. Ekup-Nse, successfully introduced the Project to Etung and Bakor Ejagham Traditional Rulers Councils on November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 respectively. The introduction was accompanied by the successful distribution of ELCC Wordlists to these Councils. As noted in QR1, ELCC had earlier introduced the project to Ejagham Traditional Rulers

Councils in Qua, Ejagham Cameroon, and Akamkpa. Thus, the successful engagement with Etung and Bakor Ejagham completes an invaluable Action Item in their Project Execution Plan.

### **ELCC In Etung Ejagham**

ELCC report on their engagement in Etung Ejagham, which was published as News on all EjT New Media platforms, captioned emphatically that “Etung Traditional Rulers Council Makes a Now-or-Never Statement towards Ejagham Language Codification Project.” The report narrated that members of Etung Traditional Rulers Council, led by His Royal Majesty, Ntui-Atue Dr. Emmanuel Oru Ojong, Paramount Ruler of Etung Local Government Area, Cross River State, Nigeria, warmly received ELCC delegates, approved of the project, and pledged continued support to ensure that the project fructifies.



*ELCC with Etung Ejagham Traditional Ruler*

However, while attending Clan Heads made astonishing remarks of appreciation to EjT, the climax of that engagement was the unanimous resolve by the Council to approve for use in learning institutions whatever Standard Ejagham Language Orthography ELCC develops. To demonstrate his passionate resolve, the Paramount Ruler, HRM Dr. Emmanuel Oru Ojong stated his willingness to return to the Classroom, as a student, to learn anew the Standard Ejagham Language that ELCC is poised to develop. ELCC reported that “this resolve [by members of Etung Traditional Rulers Council] was founded on their visible yearning to see all Ejagham speak with one Ejagham in their



lifetime.”

### **ELCC in Bakor**

ELCC report on their engagement with Bakor Traditional Rulers Council was equally published as News on all EjT New Media Platforms. They described their meeting with the Council as “an engagement with true Ejagham people with blessings from Ejagham's ageless roots”. Such a remark was informed by the Council's demonstrated enthusiasm towards the project. The event took place at Ishibori Town Hall and had old and young representatives from Bakor Ejagham Clans in Ikom and Ogoja Local Government Areas of Cross River State, Nigeria.



*ELCC with Bakor Ejagham Traditional Ruler*

ELCC Wordlists were well received by this Council, and like all other Ejagham Traditional Rulers Councils in Nigeria and the Cameroons, they were ecstatic about the prospect of a Standard Ejagham language orthography for use in learning institutions. The crux of Bakor Ejagham's reactions was the total willingness to accept whatever Standard Ejagham Language ELCC develops. Speaking on behalf of the Council, HRH, Ntol Atol Julius Ayate, thanked EjT for this initiative, while simultaneously acknowledging the enormity of the project. He remarked that ELCC was on course to realise a wish Bakor Ejagham long had.

### **Appointment of Technical Advisers for ELCC**

As a basic component of ELCC, Professionals from all Ejagham Clusters in

the fields of Languages, Literary Studies, and related disciplines have been appointed as Technical Advisers of ELCC. This marked a great step forward in consolidating the Team and ensuring that all Ejagham Clusters are well represented throughout the development of the Standard Ejagham Language Orthography. ELCC held its second general meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 where these Technical Advisers were inducted into the committee and introduced to the project. Below is the complete list of ELCC members:

1. Prof. Stella Ansa - Chairperson, ELCC
2. Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Eja Ojong - Alternate Chairperson, ELCC
3. Nta Daniel C. Ekup-Nse - Secretary, ELCC
4. Sesseikou (Iyamba) Agbornduku Eret - Member, ELCC
5. Dr. Tanyi John Mkpote - Member, ELCC
6. Dr. Stephen Ellah - Technical Adviser, Bakor Ejagham
7. Nta Ntiamba Obi Ntui - Technical Adviser, Ejagham Cameroon
8. Ntufam Okoro Ntoe - Technical Adviser, Qua Ejagham
9. Ugban Ita Akuku - Technical Adviser, Bakor Ejagham
10. Dr. Roseline Egbe - Technical Adviser, Akamkpa Ejagham
11. Mrs. Patience Ebam - Technical Adviser, Etung Ejagham
12. Rev. Ayamba Nkiri - Technical Adviser, Ejagham Cameroon

### **Appointment and Inauguration of Ejagham Journal and Book Editorial Board**

After the development of this Project Execution Plan, as captured in Q1 report, the next action to commission the project was to set up the Editorial Board. This was accomplished after a protracted period of consistent consultation within and without EjT. All Ejagham Intellectuals and Professionals who were consulted and accepted the responsibility to serve in the Board were officially inaugurated by the President of EjT, Engr. Chris Anom on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This Board is made up of the following offices: Editor-in-Chief; General Editors; Editorial Consultants; and Atak Eti (Editorial Advisors). Each of these

offices have their roles and responsibilities clearly defined.



*Outline of Ejagham Journal*

It is worthy to note that Atak Eti (Editorial Advisors) is an Editorial office exclusive to typical Ejagham Heritage Custodians who must not necessarily be literates of a non-Ejagham language and education, but who are masters of knowledge on Ejagham Traditional Practices and Cultural Expressions in their respective Ejagham Clusters. Members of this category shall be nominated by the Editorial Consultants and General Editors who are representing their respective Ejagham Clusters. This is yet to be finalised. Below is the list of the board members:

1. Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Eja Ojong - EJB Coordinator
2. Sesseikou (Iyamba) Hon. Agbornduku Eret - Editor-in-Chief
3. Dr. Lawrence Obah Mgbangson - Editorial Consultant
4. Chief Igbe Aruku mni - Editorial Consultant
5. Ntufam Sen. Prof. Sandy Ojang Onor - Editorial Consultant
6. HRH Ntufam Moses Obenofunde - Editorial Consultant
7. Prof. (Mrs.) Alice Eta Asim - Member
8. Prof. Edward Ntui Okey - Member
9. Rev. Ayamba Nkiri - Member

10. Dr. Kadimo Oqua - Member
11. Sr.. Dr. Marie Agatha Ozah - Member
12. Dr. Stephen Ellah - Member
13. Dr. Onongha Ogbonnaya - Member
14. Nta Ntiamba Obi Ntui - Member
15. Nta Cijeyu Ojong - Member
16. Nta Daniel C. Ekup-Nse - Member

### Development of Ejagham Nation Map


Though made public in Q1 report, EjT sponsored the production of the first-ever Ejagham Nation map. This was facilitated by an Ejagham expert in the business, Mrs. Bridget Nkor. , in Forest Monitoring, GIS and Mapping Unit, Cross River State Forestry Commission, Calabar. This map captures and presents elaborately all Ejagham Clusters in Nigeria: Akamkpa, Bakor, Etung, and Qua; and in the Cameroons: Obang, Njemaya, and Ngunaya. Though often referred to as 'Ejagham in the Cameroons,' the Leadership of EjT recognises that three Ejagham Clusters make up Ejagham in the Cameroons, as illustrated in our Ejagham Nation map. But due to the Civil unrest in the Cameroons - one that is greatly plaguing Manyu Division where Ejagham is located, we currently have one Vice President appointed by the President of EjT to effectively manage all EjT affairs in the Country for the time being. This is the first of more illustrative maps upcoming.

### The premier of First Episode of Inside Ejagham Documentary Series: 'Moments with Pa Raphael'

Recorded in May 2020, EjT Media finally premiered the first episode of Inside Ejagham Documentary Series on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. This episode was aimed at obtaining a sage's insights, with possible illustrations, on different aspects of Ejagham Heritage and contemporary experiences. This sage, Ntufam Ndeb Egbe Raphael, a renowned Ejagham Tradition custodian from Ogurang Community in the Cameroons, fondly called Pa Raphael, revealed a great deal about Ejagham's past, present, and future forecast. Feedback obtained from viewers indicates very strongly that this episode is a uniquely rich Educational resource that should be studied

keenly by all Ejagham people. The video quality of this episode points to the need for improved production standards through increased funding, as well as to sustain this invaluable programme as well. This episode can be viewed in three parts via Ejagham Tradition YouTube channel, accessible through this link [https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UCC5YZNGyh7e\\_1ib67uiRdsg/videos](https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UCC5YZNGyh7e_1ib67uiRdsg/videos)



 **INSIDE EJAGHAM: Moments with Pa Raphael Part 3**

### Reactivation of EJT Membership Registration Portal on EJT Website

Since we embarked on redesigning our website, the membership registration portal on our website has been inconsistent, thereby posing a challenge for persons interested in joining our organisation. This was solved in December 2020. The two domains of Shop and Ejagham Professionals have equally been hosted, though awaits designing. Indeed, all Ejagham persons can become EJT members with ease by simply visiting our website [www.ejaghamtradition.org](http://www.ejaghamtradition.org), click on 'Register,' enter the form and submit. The registration form can be reached directly via this link: <https://ejaghamtradition.org/register>. Please feel free to direct or forward the links to intended members.

### The premier of 2020: Stronger Together

By way of summarising the major accomplishment of EJT in 2020 in audio-visual form, a detailed video was produced by EJT Media titled “2020: Stronger Together.” This video premiered on December 30<sup>th</sup> on EJT YouTube channel and Facebook page.

This is an incisive video that tells our 2020 story of challenges and achievements. It was produced in appreciation to all our members and supporters who have helped us come this far, while praying for their continued support to enable us to face the huge tasks ahead. As the video is described: “...never has so much been accomplished with so much more to be done!” The video can be viewed through this link [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOBMiTL\\_R-I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOBMiTL_R-I)



**2020: Stronger Together**

### ECFC Hindered by Covid-19

Ejagham Cultural Festivals Committee had set its scope on four events where its objectives could be achieved: Bakor New Yam Festival, Calabar Cultural Carnival, Qua Ejagham Festival, and Oban Akachak festival. The Covid-19 pandemic situation prevented three of these events from holding, while Bakor New Yam festival was simply marked by home celebrations. While looking forward to 2021, the Leadership of this committee is currently remodelling its Terms of Reference (ToR) and shall be made public in due time, its new design which shall enable it to achieve even more of its objectives.

## AREAS OF CONCERN

### Financial

Given the number of ongoing projects, programmes, and activities, EjT is in critical need of financial resources to run, sustain, and execute its projects, programmes, and activities. It currently has no corporate sponsorship and thrives on voluntary donations from very few well-meaning Ejagham people, and that witnessed a significant decline in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter. Since we are a non-profit organisation, lack of financial support from individuals and organisations poses a very high risk, not only to our mission, but the fate of Ejagham heritage. There is no doubt that Ejagham Tradition, which is the core of identity for Ejagham people globally, is an at-risk tradition, eroding by the day, and pleading a case for survival from its own descendants.

In the end, what shall stare the faces of future Ejagham descendants is the question of identity: 'who are you? And, where do you come from?' These, and many similar ones, are questions every human is confronted with, multiple times, in a lifetime. In a world with a huge history and reality of identity conundrum, Ejagham people cannot afford to stay aloof at the expense of one of the world's greatest civilisations, traceable to the very origin of humans: Ejagham! This is why we are on this mission in the most constructive manner possible. No support would be too much or too little to enable us to do much more for Ejagham. Local and international donors can send in their support with ease to:

Account name: **Ejagham Tradition Centre**

Account Number: **2035883685**

Bank: **First Bank Nigeria**

Swift Code: **FBNINGLA**

### Silo Relationships

It is obvious that one great challenge still facing EjT is the existing silo relationships where some Ejagham people fail to see the oneness of Ejagham beyond their immediate Ejagham cluster. This calls for concern as Ejagham can only be stronger together. As we captioned, "2020: Stronger Together," indeed, EjT is 'a story made possible through the unity of all Ejagham Clusters and people globally.' As our Ejagham Nation map illustrates, all Ejagham Clusters are connected geographically, with undebatable historical facts of strong common ancestry. While this is common knowledge, we must prove to the world through unending

collaborations for our common good that Ejagham is now immune from both colonial and post-colonial machinations aimed at dividing, conquering, suppressing, and destroying one of the most divine gift to humanity: Ejagham.

This being an area of critical concern to us, beyond operating with a structure that depicts all Ejagham Clusters holistically, we have made the development of a Standard Ejagham Language Orthography for use in learning institutions our flagship project. We hold and work towards the conviction that mitigating our dialectal differences by developing a Standard Ejagham Language will, in the shortest time possible, enable all Ejagham to speak one Ejagham, and usher in, sustainably, a generation of Ejagham people who shall see their immediate Ejagham Clusters as a necessary part of the whole Ejagham nation that must be preserved and exhibited publicly in its wholeness. In essence, to mitigate the silo relationship dilemma, we must identify first and always as Ejagham, before further description of our Clusters, only when absolutely necessary.

This does not in any way endanger the uniqueness of any Ejagham Cluster, as our works have shown clearly that we prioritise the preservation of the parts, for the whole to thrive effectively. ELCC has emphasised to all Ejagham Traditional Rulers Councils in Nigeria and the Cameroons the need to preserve their unique Ejagham dialects. ELCC's Wordlist, which is its data gathering document, shall become a reference material for all Ejagham dialects soon, through which these dialects can be codified as well. This is the understanding that has informed the warm reception, approval, and support of this project by all Ejagham Traditional Rulers Councils. The oneness of Ejagham is the strength needed to preserve and uplift Ejagham. This remains a critical concern to EjT.



*Qua Ejagham Women in Nyenimon Dance*

## Appendices

### APPENDIX 1: Glossary of Terms

#### Glossary of Terms

Acronym	Meaning
LT	Leadership Team
EMT	Extended Management Team
ETP	Ejagham Traditional Practices
ECE	Ejagham Cultural Expressions
EjT	Ejagham Tradition
QE	Qua Ejagham
AE	Akamkpa Ejagham
EE	Etung Ejagham
BE	Bakor Ejagham
EC	Ejagham Cameroon
Triple-D	Documenting, Digitalising and Disseminating
EPLC	Ejagham People and Local Communities
PET	President, Ejagham Tradition
VP-QE	Vice President Qua Ejagham
VP-AE	Vice President Akamkpa Ejagham
VP-EE	Vice President Etung Ejagham
VP-BE	Vice President Bakor Ejagham
VP-EC	Vice President Ejagham Cameroon
SERE	Secretary & External Relations Executive
LC	Legal Counsel
CPE	Contracts & Procurement Executive
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
LO	Liaison Officer
ALO	Assistant Liaison Officer
ToR	Terms of Reference
ELCC	Ejagham Language Codification Committee
ECFC	EjT Cultural Festivals Committee
CMS	Corporate Management System
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MPR	Monthly Performance Report
EJB	Ejagham Journal and Book
CBP	Corporate Business Plan